

CHARTER COMMISSIONERS FINISH WORK ON PROPOSITION

LENGTHY EPISTLE IS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND PERUSAL OF CITY ELECTORS.

The following is the proposed new charter for this city. Voters read it carefully so as to be posted and prepared to question, condemn or praise it, as you see fit. A public meeting will undoubtedly be held to discuss it, at which you should be present.

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the City of Belding, Michigan, in order to obtain the benefits of local self-government, to encourage direct and business-like methods in the conduct of our municipal affairs, to conserve and utilize public values for public benefits, and to promote our common welfare, do enact the following charter:

GENERAL

Section 1. The inhabitants of the city of Belding, Michigan as its limits now are or hereafter may be established, shall continue to be a body politic and corporate, to be known as the "City of Belding," and as such shall have and may exercise all powers which now are or hereafter may be conferred upon or reserved to, cities of the same class under the constitution and laws of the state as fully and completely as though said powers were specifically enumerated herein, and no enumeration of particular powers by this charter shall be held to be exclusive.

Section 2. The following described territory is and constitutes the City of Belding, and is subject to the municipal control of said corporation: The same territory which now constitutes the said City of Belding.

WARD AND VOTING PRECINCTS
Section 3. All wards heretofore existing in said city are hereby abolished, and said city shall hereafter consist of one ward.

Section 4. The city (ward) hereafter shall constitute 1 voting precinct which shall embrace the whole of said city (ward), though additional voting precincts may be created by the commission, either through a division of said precinct into two or more voting precincts or the addition of new territory to said city.

Section 5. The Commission may, by ordinance, increase the number of voting precincts or change their boundaries. No division shall be made within thirty days (30) next preceding election, and provided that in case of the division of any precinct or addition in number there shall be a new registration of the electors of the precinct before the next election thereafter, electors to be registered in the several precincts in which they respectively reside.

Section 6. Each precinct shall be an election district, and all elections shall be held at such place in each precinct as the Commission shall designate.

THE CITY COMMISSION
Creation of City Commission.
Section 7. There is hereby created a City Commission which shall have full power and authority, except as herein otherwise provided to exercise all the powers conferred upon the city and is authorized to pass all laws and ordinances relating to its municipal concerns and provide proper penalties for the violation thereof, subject to the constitution and general laws of the state and this charter.

Section 8. The City Commission shall consist of three members who shall be elected on a general ticket from the city at large and shall serve for a term of six years, except as herein otherwise provided, and shall be subject to recall as hereinafter provided.

Qualifications.
Section 9. (a)—Members of the City Commission shall have been residents of the city for a term of at least two years immediately prior to their election or appointment, and have the qualifications of electors therein. The City Commission shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members, subject to review by the courts. No member of the City Commission shall, during his term of office, hold any other city office unless otherwise provided in this charter.

(b)—No member of the City Commission, or other officer shall be interested directly or indirectly, in the profits of any contract, job or work, or be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in the sale to the city of any land, materials, supplies or services (other than official services). Any member of the City Commission, or other officer of the city, offending against the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined or imprisoned, or both, as is provided by law, and shall forfeit his office.

Restriction on Powers of City Commission.
Section 10. Any member of the Commission who shall have been convicted of a felony while in office shall thereby forfeit his office. Neither the Commission nor any of its members or committees shall dictate the appointment of any person to office or employment by the City Manager to prevent him from exercising his judgment in the appointment of officers and employees in the administrative service. Except for the purpose of inquiry the Commission and its members shall deal with the administrative service solely through the City Manager, and neither the Commission nor any member thereof shall give orders or directions to any of the subordinates of the City Manager.

Organization and Procedure of City Commission.
Section 11. (a)—At eight o'clock p. m. on the first Monday of November following a regular municipal election, the City Commission shall meet at the usual place for holding the meetings of the legislative body of the city at which time the newly

elected Commissioners shall assume the duties of their office. Thereafter the City Commission shall meet at such times as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution except that they shall regularly meet semi-monthly. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Mayor or by one other Commissioner, by giving such notice to its members of such special meeting as the Commission shall provide. All meetings of the City Commission shall be public and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and records thereof at all reasonable times. The Commission shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall keep in the English language a written or printed journal of each and all of its sessions.

(b)—The City Commission, at the time of organizing, shall elect one of its members Mayor, who will be Superintendent of Public Affairs and Finance; one Commissioner elected Superintendent of Public Utilities, and one Commissioner elected Superintendent of Public Improvements. The City Commission shall also elect from among their own number a Vice-Mayor who shall perform all the duties of Mayor, when, on account of absence from the city or otherwise, the Mayor is temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office, or in case of a vacancy in the office of the Mayor, until such vacancy is filled by the City Commission.

(c)—A majority of the members elected to the City Commission shall be a quorum to do business, but, in the absence of a quorum, one commissioner may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a later date. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the affirmative vote of a majority of the members elected to the City Commission shall be necessary to adopt.

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W. R. C. Held Inspection.
The W. R. C. met at their parlors Saturday morning at 10 o'clock for a picnic dinner and inspection. The comrades were invited to the splendid dinner and there were covers laid for 40 at the table. After dinner, at 2:30, the meeting was called to order and Mrs. Florence Crawford presided, to inspect the corps in a very pleasing way. All had a very happy time and the day was an enjoyable one.

Patriotic Hubbardston.
Hubbardston again went "over the top" with its Liberty bond quota during volunteer period of the drive. Over \$16,000 worth of bonds were subscribed before the drive opened. Liberty day will be celebrated with a flag raising program.

When it comes to displaying patriotism with money and men, Fr. John M. Doyle, pastor of the Catholic church there, together with his parishioners are all there and are to be commended for the energetic way in which they always raise their quota and more.

IT IS CLAIMED THAT SYSTEM HAS MANY BENEFITS, AMONG THEM SAVING OF COAL.

The original plan for the saving of more daylight was to have been switched back to the old time again on Sunday, October 27, when at 8 o'clock it was planned on having every clock in the nation turned back one hour, giving back to the people the time that they lost or gave away last spring when the hands of the clocks were pushed ahead one hour.

Since, then, however, staunch advocates of the present system have come forward with the claim that it is a great and direct benefit to the people of this country and that instead of going back to the old time, the new scheme should be continued and the fact forgotten that there ever was a different time than that which we are going by now.

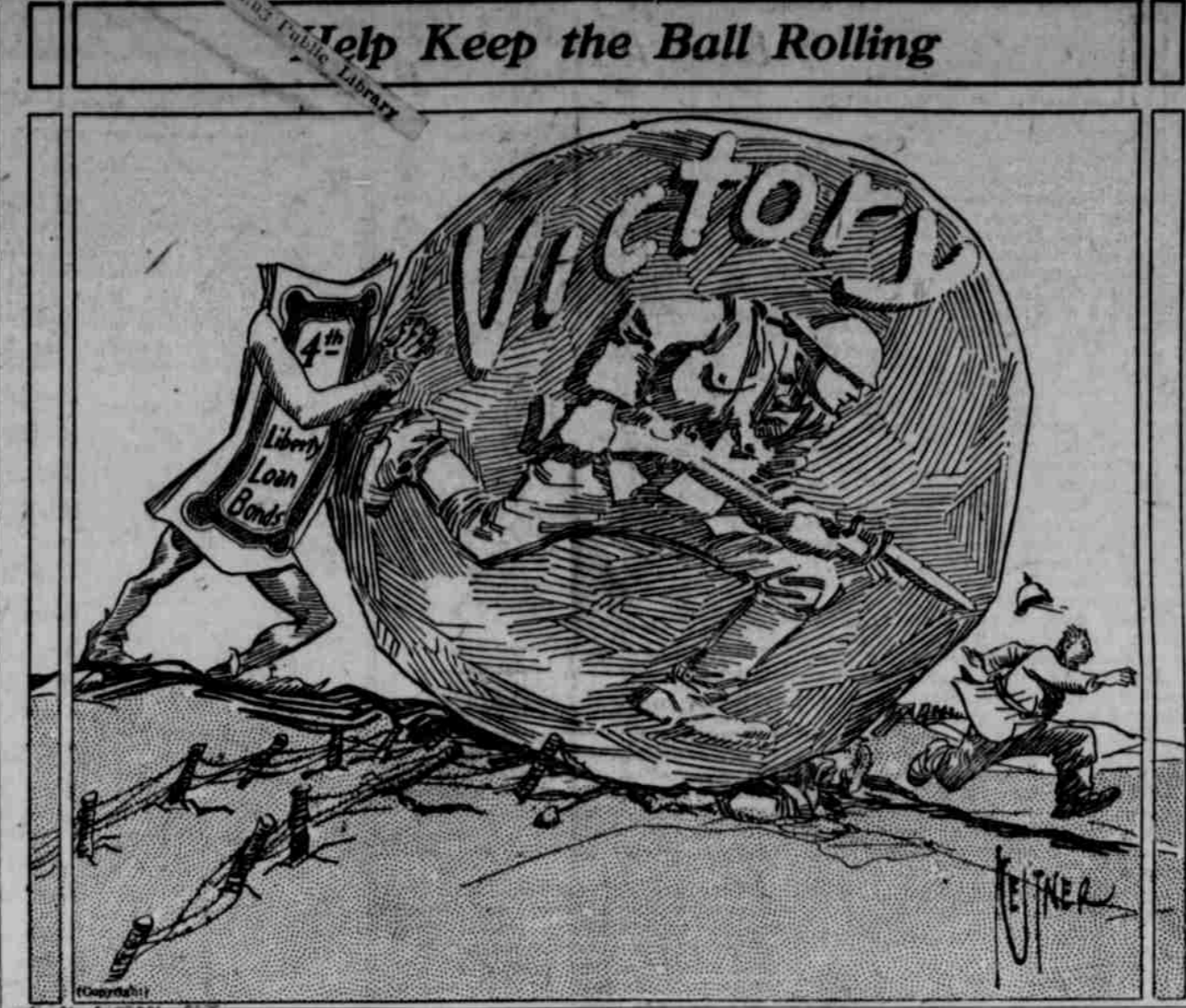
There is a bill before the United States senate at the present time, commonly called the daylight savings bill which is being pushed by Senator Calder of New York and his colleagues, who claim that they have investigated and found where the present time in use throughout the nation has among other things, effected a material saving in the amount of coal consumed in the United States and that as a daylight saver the scheme has saved millions of dollars in the country in light and power.

Unless the bill passes the plan is to turn the hands on the family timepieces back at 8 o'clock Sunday night, October 27, so that they will point to the hour of 7 instead. Many local people think that the present time is far better than the old and that if it is so much better during the summer, that it will work out just as well in the winter.

Use Gasoline on Sundays.

It has been reported that there are a number of young people living in the vicinity west of Belding who use their automobiles on Sundays, driving back and forth on some of the more unused and out of the way roads just to use up gasoline. Some of the neighbors who were on to the racket thought it the proper thing to publish the names of these young people, but we are of the opinion that after they have read this, they will come to realize that just as much gasoline can be used up on an out of the way road by running a car as can be used on any main traveled road. We think that they will also come to realize that the person who operates an automobile on Sunday in a sand road out in some secluded spot around Kiddieville is just as unpatriotic as the fellow who comes right out in public and uses the good hard roads for his gasoline consuming pleasure. We hope that the young people will quit this practice.

Miss Grace Rocky made a trip to Ionia Wednesday to visit her sister, Mrs. Claude Brockway.



LOCAL GIRL IS PICKED FOR AN IMPORTANT POST

MISS NORMA LOEWE TO HAVE CHARGE OF RELIEF WORK FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Once more a local product has forged to the front and demonstrated that Belding boys and girls know how to make good and deliver the goods.

Miss Norma Loewe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Loewe, has been selected by the Michigan War Preparedness Board to take an important post in the New York office and Miss Loewe has already taken up her duties in the nation's metropolis.

In her new position, Miss Loewe will have charge of the war board relief work among the state's wounded soldiers and also soldiers in camps and cantonments in eastern places and local parents, relatives and friends can well feel happy over the fact that Miss Loewe, a local girl, has been appointed to the position.

Miss Loewe has written us a letter concerning her work which is as follows and which we gladly publish: 36 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y. Sept. 30, 1918.

Mr. E. Engeman, Editor Banner-News, Belding, Mich.: My Dear Mr. Engeman: I wish to tell the people of Belding and surrounding country, through your columns, of the work which is being undertaken by the Michigan War Board. They have established in New York a Bureau for Military Relief, which is at the service of all Michigan men in service, both the wounded and those in camp, also at the service of the relatives of such men. Michigan is the very first state to undertake such a project and the attitude of the service men who have been in this war proves that the work is very worth while.

The bureau expects to keep a record of all Michigan men confined in New York hospitals and render them any service that we can. Personal visits will be made to such men, delicacies taken when permitted, etc. Then, at the headquarters the Michigan women of New York have fitted up pleasant rooms where the Michigan men may come to meet their friends, read, write letters, smoke, rest, hear good music, in fact make themselves at home. Saturday was the opening day and many Michigan boys came in to spend a few pleasant hours. In the afternoon refreshments were served to the boys, a feature which they seem to like very much indeed.

A fund is being collected for the purchase of cigarettes, candy, fruit, etc., and any and all contributions will be thoroughly appreciated. Then, too, any mothers wishing to send jams, jellies, or other delicacies to bring bright moments to the boys in hospitals, may do their bit in that way.

When I was asked to come down and take charge of the office work in connection with the bureau, I felt myself the luckiest girl in Michigan. It is a field for unlimited service to boys from our own state, service which they certainly appreciate.

All mail should be addressed to Michigan Bureau of Military Relief, 36 West 40th Street, New York. Whenever friends and relatives wish to send things to their own boys through this bureau, we shall be glad to assist in their delivery. Do not hesitate to write us concerning anyone in service, stationed in or about New York.

Yours very truly, Norma M. Loewe.

FRUIT AND BLOSSOMS ARE PICKED FROM SAME TREE

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Wilder of the North side were over Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. K. Schouten of Fairplains and while there they picked an apple from a tree which also was in bloom. This is a very rare occurrence and as evidence that they had observed this rarity Mr. and Mrs. Wilder brought in both the fruit of the tree, together with the apple blossoms.

October 7 is a very late time for apple blossoms to be showing up on trees and if the phenomenon has any particular forebodings of a hard or tight winter or an early peace we would like to hear about it.

The apple and blossoms are on exhibition in the Banner-News office window.

West Otisco Farmers' Club.
The West Otisco Farmers' club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Travis with about 60 in attendance. Next meeting will be with Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brown of Belding, Nov. 7. This will be our first all day meeting with a chicken dinner.

BELDING AND SURROUNDING VICINITY HAS ITS SLACKERS
MANY PEOPLE, KNOWN TO BE ABLE TO BUY BONDS, TAKE INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

(Contributed.)
The Liberty Loan committee has a list of names of citizens who, in this loan, have done their duty. Among them are names well known in this community. There are names of men with whom the name of Belding and vicinity is synonymous, who have been a part of this community since it began. There are names in this list of men and families which Belding has learned to respect, but who, for some reason, have not seen the light of duty, who have not responded in this loan in accordance with their means.

What are you going to do about it, you who have not done your share. Do you think Belding and it people, the people who bought until it hurt, are going to continue to respect you? Do you think you will be welcome in this community? Do you think it will want you? Or don't you care? Other localities have used stringent means to make all and alike carry a share of the nation's burden. Must Belding follow this example? Must we print your names in the newspapers and hold you up as the slackers that you really are?

The government must have this money and it must have yours. You will have to come across willingly or otherwise. Public sentiment is too tender and too keen to permit any man from living in the community and claim the privilege of enjoying the full rights of citizenship who has not and does not carry their full share of the burdens of the war in the present crisis.

The community is the best judge of how many bonds you are able to carry. Your quota is not measured by the \$55 in your pocket or in the bank. You should give of all that you have and loan your credit to buy bonds if you can't fight in person then fight with your money, then you have a right to mingle with your fellow citizens and enjoy the rights of Democracy.

Now, you come through, or there'll be trouble. There will be trouble for you, trouble that you will never forget as long as you live in or near Belding. And it will be trouble of your own making.

Belding wants to keep you here, to continue to respect you. It wants you to be a good, patriotic citizen. It wants many such citizens. But we don't want you if you don't do your share and take your quota of Liberty bonds.

Increase your subscriptions, and increase them today. If you haven't the money, borrow it and put up the bonds as security. They are doing this in other places.

A PROUD SON'S LETTER TO HIS FOND FATHER

CLOWN PRINCE WILLIE WRITES OF THOSE RUDE, NAUGHTY YANKS AND HIS OWN BRAVE DEEDS AT THE FRONT.

W. E. Leach brings the following letter in for publication. The letter is one which Willie Hohenzollern wrote his father recently. Of things took a turn on the western front and Willie, the clown prince, whose army made a "glorious retreat" recently for "strategical reasons," has written this letter to his father, the kaiser, explaining the situation on the battle front:

"On the Run Somewhere in France, August 2 Times.

"Dear Papa: I am writing you on the run as the brave and glorious soldiers under my command have not seen the Rhine for so long that they have started that way, and of course, I am going mit dem. Oh papa, dere has been some odd things happened here in France. "First—I started in my big offensive, which was to crush the fool Americans, but dey know so little military tactics that they did not be smashed just like I want 'em. I sent my men in de fight in big vanees and when they got to de Americans dey all said 'Boo' as loud as dey could holler. 'Vell, according to vat you haf always told me, dey Americans should have turned and run like blazes. But what you tink? Dem fool Americans don't know anything about the war and instead of running de odder vey dey come right towards. Some of dem vas singing something over 'dere' come back till it over over 'dere', or some odder foolish song, and some of dem laffing like fools. Dey are so ignorant. But dey are offel reckless mit dere guns and ven dey come towards us it vas den dat my men took a notion dey wanted to go back to de dear old Rhine. Ve don't like de little old dirty Marne river, anyhow. Und, oh, papa, dem Americans use such offel language. Dey know nothing of kultur and say such odd things right before us. And dey talk blasphemy. Vot you think they said right in front of my face? 'Vas I husky from a place dey call Belding,' he said, 'Oh, papa, I hate to tell you vat offel dey said—but I can't help it. He said 'To hell mit der Kaiser! I don't tink anybody would say such an offel ting. It made me so mad—I wouldn't stand and hear such an offel ding, so I turned round and run mit de odder boys. Vas I right? Vot? And, Oh papa, you know dem breastplates vat you sent us. Can you send some to put on our backs? You know ve are going de odder vey now and breastplates are no good for the cowardly Americans are shooting us right in der back. Some of our boys took off der breast plates and put 'em behind but de fool Americans are playing 'The Star Spangled Banner' mit machine guns on dem plates. Can't you help us? You remember in your speech you said nothing could stand before de brave German soldiers. Oh, papa, I don't believe does ignorant Americans ever read your speech for dey run after us just like ve vas a lot of rabbits—vot tink of dat? Can't you send some of your speeches right away. Dey don't know how terrible ve are. Can't you move my army back to Belgium ven ve von all der glory? My men can vip all de vimmen and children dat de Belgians bring up. But de Americans are so sure de best runners. Ve can't make 'em understand dat ve are de greatest soldiers on earth and ven ve try to sing 'Deutschland Uber Alles' dey laugh like a lot of monkeys. But ve are getting the best of de Americans. Ve can outrun dem, papa, if ve are not de best fighters on earth ve are de best runners. Nobody can keep up mit us ven ve tink der dear old Rhine and my army never did tink so much of der dear old river.

"Let me know right away what to do by return post office.

"Crown Prince Willie."

A Happy Old Dad.
Al Shaw called us on the phone this morning and proudly told us that there had been an 8 pound daughter born at their home this Wednesday and that mother and the daughter are doing well and there was absolutely nothing wrong with him at all, in fact he never felt better in all his life. Of course Al had made calculations on a son, but the newcomer is no disappointment and she is the biggest little item in the vicinity north and west of he city.

Local Man Among Missing.
Saturday's casualty list contained the name of Charles White from this city, as among those missing and unaccounted for, leading one to believe that he has been taken prisoner by the Germans. Charles White is the son of George White, living in the west part of the city and had not been heard from for a long time. It is presumed that he entered the service and when enlisting gave this city as his home because of the fact that his parents lived here.

Fainted on Street.
Myrna Jardine, a young lady boarding at the Ashfield dormitory fainted on the sidewalk just north of the band stand on Main street, Tuesday night at 11 o'clock and despite the efforts of her friends to revive her, she remained in the faint for a considerable period. She was removed to the Ashfield in an automobile which happened to be passing the spot and medical aid was summoned.

LOCAL PEOPLE MEET WITH ACCIDENT WHILE TOURING

While touring through the country on their way to visit their daughter, Mrs. Willa Yerkes, at Evart, the Overland car owned and driven by Supervisor John W. Moore of the First ward and containing himself, Mrs. Moore and their grandson Sherman, turned turtle when within three and one-half miles of Barryton and in so doing Mr. Moore sustained three broken ribs and a bruised head, while Sherman, the grandson, went through the mill unhurt. The unfortunate people were taken to the home of Henry Otterbein a nearby farmer, where medical aid was given them and where they are at present doing as well as can be expected. Their local relatives are looking for them home on Thursday. The car was somewhat smashed up, the main damage however, being done to the top and windshield. The cause of the accident was not learned but as Mr. Moore is known to be a careful driver, it is thought that something must have been wrong with the road or that he must have lost control of the machine.

THREE LOCAL SOLDIERS DIE AT FT. McHENRY

PNEUMONIA TAKES LIVES OF THREE OF CITY'S BEST YOUNG MEN IN NATIONAL SERVICE.

The community has been saddened through the news which has reached this city at intervals during the past week to the effect that Mat Jonas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jonas, Mark Osworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Osworth and Charles Chadwick, husband of Clara Chadwick, the two latter boys being neighbors living at their homes on Peck's Hill, before enlisting for service, were seriously ill and in danger of death at the base hospital at Camp Ft. McHenry, near Baltimore, Md.

A telegram to Mrs. Clara Chadwick to the effect that her husband was dangerously ill at the Ft. McHenry hospital, caused herself and Mr. Chadwick's mother, Mrs. M. M. Chadwick, to leave here Saturday noon for that place. They arrived on Monday morning, not however, until about an hour after the soldier had passed away from the dreaded pneumonia, following the attack of influenza that he had been taken with. Mark Osworth was inquired after and they were told that he was dead. Mrs. Chadwick then inquired after Mat Jonas, whom she had heard was also ill there and was taken in to see him and shook hands with him. The nurse in charge of the case told Mrs. Chadwick that Mat had perhaps 20 or 30 minutes more to live.

Mrs. Chadwick started back immediately and arrived here this morning. The body of Mark Osworth is expected with each train, a telegram received stating that it had been shipped Tuesday noon. No idea of when the bodies of Mat Jonas or Charles Chadwick will reach here has as yet been received.

The three men left here in July and were trained at Lansing. They made several furlough visits home and Mark Osworth was one of the soldiers in charge of the kaiser's cage in the Labor day parade. They were three of the best and most honorable young men in this city and their deaths have caused a genuine sadness to creep over the community and the grief-stricken families have the sympathy of the entire countryside.

The fact that three of the young men out of a bunch of four who left here died within 24 hours of one another in the same hospital is a rather singular incident. Hal Burris left here with the three now deceased men and is still located at Lansing.

Obituaries of the men, together with further facts will be published in detail next week.

Boy Scouts to Play Football.
John Wheeler and a bunch of the local Boy Scouts are getting ready to administer a drubbing to the Iowa Scout football team when the latter will visit this city and the two teams will meet on Leonard Park in one of the most viciously contested football games of the season. Tickets on sale and can be had from any of the members of the squad at ten cents each.

BUY A BOND OR WE SHALL KNOW WHY?

LOCAL COMMITTEE HOPES COLUMBUS DAY WILL SEE BELDING'S QUOTA SUBSCRIBED.

Saturday is Columbus Day—October 12 being the date in the year 1492 that Columbus discovered America—ever since then the land of all lands dedicated to Liberty in every sense of the word—civil, political and religious liberty have at all times been synonymous words with the words "America" and United States, because from the year 1776 the United States has stood sponsor for the Liberty which this nation and the nation near it in the new world particularly, were entitled to and must have. In later years when it became evident that the liberty of the people of the world was becoming threatened by the hand of an autocratic and war-mad tyrant the real great meaning of the word Liberty as this country stands for compelled her to check the career of one who would not only destroy the liberty of the people of Europe, but eventually the people of this nation and the western hemisphere as well. To uphold and maintain this world liberty, the Fourth Liberty Loan has been floated.

Also to uphold this liberty, millions of men from this country and other countries have offered themselves—their very lives, if need be and unless the Liberty Loan is successful in its floating, all that these millions have gained may be lost.

According to the local bankers, the quota which the people of this city and vicinity should take in this loan amounts to \$160,000 and the amount which has been subscribed is something like \$120,000, just about \$40,000 short of what it ought to be. It is said that the working people are doing very good in buying bonds and no fault is found with them as a rule, but the big fellows—the men who are well known to thoroughly take a big bond or two is sitting tight and will need the efforts of some vigilance committee to pry his cash away from him while Uncle Sam uses it for awhile.

There is at the present time a committee being organized for the purpose of looking further into the financial affairs of these fellows and unless they come across by Columbus day, Saturday, October 12, this committee is going to visit these men and in case they do not subscribe they are going to be summarily dealt with. That is about the situation as the Banner-News is able to find out and in case there is a chance to bring to light any person living in this community who has an abundance of money and who will not either through a miserly trait, a yellow streak of pro-Germanism or any other unpatriotic motive, part with some of their finances by way of loaning the same to Uncle Sam in his trouble, we will be only too ready and willing to help with the publicity.

Only a little more than \$40,000 to raise in this city and vicinity to put us over the top in this drive and we think that on Saturday, October 12—Columbus day or Liberty day those who have been negligent in this matter of bond buying will come to realize and do the right thing by the boys over there and the nation as a whole. Remember you might better step up and subscribe for your share of this bond issue voluntarily than to have to have a committee compel you to do it.

An Old Time Minister.
Rev. M. F. Barlow of Greenville was in the city Tuesday for a short time and while here called on the Banner-News office. Rev. Barlow is a rather interesting character inasmuch as that he is one of the very first Baptist ministers who ever labored in local fields. Mr. Barlow is 84 years of age and is remarkably well preserved for a man of his years. He attributes his long life to hard work, sacrifice, love of God and lots of all of these three things. Speaking of early day conditions, Mr. Barlow stated that he lived at Greenville and that on Sunday morning he would walk to this place and preach in the old school building. After this he would walk from there to Gowen and preach there, then walk back to Greenville and preach there at his own church at night and go to work at hard manual labor on the following Monday morning. Somewhat different from the present day conditions we say.

Parents and Teachers Meet.
Tuesday evening, Oct. 8, was the meeting of the Parents' Counsel club of the Ellis school.

Following the regular business meeting Supt. S. J. Skinner of the local schools gave a very practical and thoroughly enjoyable talk on the "Father's part in the education of his children." He spoke of the need of co-operation between parents and teachers, and also of Belding's great need of a community center.

The high school orchestra furnished several enjoyable selections and responded to hearty encores. Light refreshments and a social hour ended a meeting both profitable and entertaining.

The members of the club feel much gratified by the interest which was manifested by the large attendance.

Church of Christ Gets Pastor.
The members of the Church of Christ were so well pleased with the two sermons delivered by Rev. H. B. Church last Sunday that they unanimously decided to call him as their pastor. Mr. Church accepted the call and will begin his work here the last Sunday in November. One young man confessed Christ at the morning service and was baptised at the close of the evening service.